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Comparative Free Government. By JESSE MACY and JOHN W. GANNAWAY. New York: Macmillan, 1915. 8vo, pp. xviii+754. \$2.25.

"The new era involves a new interpretation of history." The governmental machinery of modern nations in America and Western Europe is regarded as a means of giving expression to men's striving for freedom. This ideal is government by common consent, and the outward forms are regarded as the instruments by which this ideal is to be realized. One would expect a treatise on comparative government woven around this theme to be very interesting and fruitful; and this book will measure up to the expectations of a fairly tolerant reader, in spite of the fact that, at times, the theme seems to be lost in the descriptive analysis. One sees how a measure of free government may be achieved by a variety of different forms, and that "democracy is not a form or method" any more "than religion is a ritual or a ceremony."

A consideration of the government of the United States takes up the first half of the book. Part II is devoted to a study of the free governments of Europe, England, France, Germany, and Switzerland; and Part III comprises about fifty pages given to a discussion of democracy in the smaller states of Europe and the A.B.C. republics of South America. Rather an extended description is given of the legislative, judicial, and executive machinery of the American Union, together with an account of the political parties, their organization, and function. Throughout the book an effort is made to show how the mechanism performs its work of giving expression to the will of the people. In the less detailed treatment of the European governments, special care is taken to point out similarities and contrasts, as regards both the means adopted and the results achieved. Though in some countries—Germany, for example—the evolution toward free government is not far advanced, yet the authors have supreme faith in its ultimate realization. This judgment, expressed after the outbreak of anarchy in Europe, ought to be reassuring to those who have been depressed by political pessimists.

Furthermore, this comparative study of government goes to the historical roots of present institutions. It is shown that democracy is everywhere a thing of slow growth, and not a creature of paper constitutions. In England and Switzerland, where free government is farthest advanced, democracy is founded upon a long experience of the people in local self-government and upon adequate democratic traditions. The weakness of the South American republics is due to a lack of experience in the processes of self-government, and, until this deficiency is remedied by more adequate political education, there is little hope for free government in South America.

Russian Sociology. A Contribution to the History of Sociological Thought and Theory. By JULIUS F. HECKER, PH.D. New York: Columbia University Press, 1915. Pp. 309. \$2.50.

This study aims to show that "although long-suffering and slow to wrath, the people of Russia have risen from time to time, demanding the rights and